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9-4-1945

# Howard Resch's Ship Recently Captured the Jap "Hospital" Ship 9-4-1945

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## *Howard Resch's Ship* <sup>Sept 4</sup> *Recently Captured the* *Jap "Hospital" Ship* <sup>1945</sup>

Chief Petty Officer Howard Resch has written his mother, Mrs. William Resch of Newton, that his destroyer, the USS Cassin, was the ship which recently captured a Japanese hospital ship, camouflaged with fake wounded and loaded with arms and ammunition. He said he didn't know any more about it than the reports had told.

The ship was brought into an allied port for further examination. It was boarded early in August in the Banda sea north of Dutch Timor "in the course of routine search by an allied naval force from blockading vessels of the Seventh fleet," General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters said at that time.

The unauthorized contraband found aboard by the original searching party was said to include twenty-three heavy machine-guns, fifteen light machine guns, an undetermined number of seventy-five millimeter shells and quantities of other ammunition.

The shells were packed in boxes marked "hospital supplies," headquarters said.

Also aboard were 1,500 Japanese listed as patients. Examination of bandages of some "patients" showed no wounds, however.

The announcement said the boarding was in strict conformity with international law and the Geneva convention.

"Its purpose was to see that no improper use was made of a hospital ship," the announcement said. "The ship had a crew of thirteen officers and sixty-three men."